

## **Three Crabs Flooding Subcommittee Meeting, October 24, 2006**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Introductions and Review**

After introductions by the group, Clea Rome gave a brief review of the Meadowbrook Creek flooding issues using Brian Collins' sequence of aerial photos of the mouth of Meadowbrook and the Three Crabs area. Starting in 1985, the photos show the erosion of the beach to the west of the artificially hardened point near the Three Crabs parking lot, leading to the breach of the Meadowbrook channel in 1999. The photos also show the large drift cell moving westward from Jamestown Beach toward Dungeness Bay. The last aerial photo, taken in early 2006, shows that sediment of the drift cell has begun to round the point at the parking lot and collect at the mouth of Meadowbrook. This indicates that flooding is likely to continue and possibly increase in severity over the next several winters as the mouth of Meadowbrook is further blocked by marine sediment and charts a new course to Dungeness Bay.

**Kevin Farrell, Floodplain Management Specialist, Department of Ecology** discussed the potential flooding assistance resources and limitations that may be available for the area.

- Grants may be available through the Department of Ecology for planning and implementation of projects related to flood hazards, including the Flood Control Assistance Account Program, or FCAP. These are competitive grants and because infrastructure damage has been relatively limited thus far, it may make it more challenging to compete for one of these grants.
- There is no quick fix that stands out and the permitting process for projects can be lengthy.
- Ecology will be working with partners to address multiple issues such as habitat and water quality, including investigating the Duck Club property and the WDFW property for flood storage possibilities.

#### **Pat McElroy, Clallam County Road Department**

- Pat McElroy introduced himself and said that while he is familiar with the flooding issues at Three Crabs, his department does not have any solutions at this time.

#### **Bob Martin, Clallam County Emergency Management**

- There are no easy solutions in this highly dynamic environment. Engineered solutions to flooding problems can be expensive, with unforeseen impacts elsewhere, and with questionable success. Absent a repeated and severe disaster, availability for funding is low.
- Post-disaster grants are available through Emergency Management, the State and FEMA.
- Emergency Management has been working on an All Hazard Alert Management System to be installed in the Dungeness area.
- He is also working with the Road Department to get sandbags stocked at the County Road Department's Sequim shop. Kevin Farrell mentioned that the Washington Conservation Corps crew would be available to haul bags and fill them on site in the event of a flood.
- Matt Heins asked if it would make sense to create an alternative exit route from Three Crabs, as currently there is only one way in and out. Bob said he will look into it further. Bob also mentioned that the way to set that process in motion is to petition the County Commissioners.
- There is pre-disaster mitigation assistance available through the state. Bob Martin will talk with Marty Best about it.

#### **Hansi Hals, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe**

- Introduction of the Bureau of Reclamation Dungeness Levy Setback report which is still in its preliminary draft.
- According to long-time resident of the area Vern Petit, before the levy was built, the Dungeness River flooded Dungeness and the Three Crabs area annually, and sometimes more than once a year.

- If the levy along the Dungeness fails, Meadowbrook Creek would likely become an outlet for the floodwaters.
- If interested in finding out more about the results of the study, contact Hansi at the JSKT.

#### **Dan Golner, Ducks Unlimited**

- DU will work with willing landowners to do wetland restoration that has a focus of habitat restoration. They have engineers on staff that may be available to help landowners come up with a plan for wetland restoration.

#### **Open Discussion: Brainstorming Possible Solutions**

- The idea of flood storage on the Duck Club and the WDFW properties was discussed at length. Both parties (the Duck Club and the WDFW) were open to the possibility of exploring the potential for flood storage.
  - If that area is used for flood storage, there may be a problem of controlling flood waters to south of the Duck Club property.
  - Suggestion of using old channel behind Norma's barn as an overflow culvert to the WDFW property.
  - Suggestion of using the ditch on east side of Jones property to convey the water to Golden Sands Slough as outlet
  - The span of the bridge over Meadowbrook is a concern. It is a pinch point, but to widen it means more salt water in as well as more water out.
  - Anita McMillan noted that there are no specific plans beyond maintaining the WDFW property as open space. A detailed habitat assessment needs to occur, but WDFW lacks the funds to do so.
  - Pat McElroy noted that there is not likely to be success by digging out flood storage on these properties (i.e. simply increasing the volume of storage)
- Possibility of doing flood control (berms, fill) on individual properties on north side of road. What are the permitting issues with that? What are the unintended impacts to other properties in the area?
- It was determined that a first priority is that basic information about the flooding needs to be collected. What is the sequence of events when it floods? How many property owners are being affected and to what extent?

#### **Meeting Wrap-up**

- Consensus is to meet at least monthly
- Schedule a meeting during high tide for a field trip
- Use the upcoming flood season to focus on data gathering.
- Thursday mornings work best for meetings

#### **Attendance**

Clea Rome	Clallam Conservation District
Joe Holtrop	Clallam Conservation District
Liz and Larry Phelps	Homeowners
Larry McHone	Homeowner
Roger Girvin	Homeowner
Mary Anne Murdock	Homeowner
Donella Pratt	Clallam County DCD
Kevin Farrell	Department of Ecology
Jack and Pat Fletcher	Homeowners
Lee Bowen	Homeowner
Anita McMillan	WDFW
Matt Heins	Dungeness Farms
Daniel Golner	Ducks Unlimited
Pat McElroy	Clallam County Public Works
Hansi Hals	Jamestown S' Klallam Tribe
Bob Martin	Clallam County Emergency Management
Randy Johnson	WDFW